

The Easton Planning Commission met on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 in the 6th Floor Council Chambers, Easton City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Charles Elliott. Present: Charles Elliott, Robert Sun, Mary Viscomi, and Dennis Lieb. Also in attendance were staff members Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes; Brian Gish, Chief Planner; Carl Manges, City Planner; and Tina Woolverton, Secretary. City Solicitor Joel Scheer was present.

The revised agenda was approved.

The minutes of the September 1, 2010 meeting were approved.

Privilege of the Floor. None.

National Endowment of the Arts Grant Partnership Presentation.

Ms. Lucienne Di Biase Dooley, an architect at Artefact, Inc., explained that the City and Lafayette College jointly applied for the grant, and the application was one of 25 nationwide that was chosen for funding in the amount of \$200,000. She said the goal of the project is to challenge how people perceive urban space by creating a festival around temporary installations of art in challenging areas of the City. The project would include 16 installations, which could be temporary art or performances and would run from April until November of 2011. She said the invitation of artists and performers would be international, and would be solicited through an RFP process. Potential partners in the project include the College and the City, Metro Corp., Philadelphia University, CACLV, WWNP, Wachovia Regional Foundation, LVEDC, LANTA and the Chamber of Commerce. Mary Wilford-Hunt, Director of Facilities Planning and Construction at Lafayette College was present. She said the College is very happy to be a part of this and that it is in keeping with the vision of the school. Mr. Elliott said he is excited about the project. Mr. Lieb questioned the use of international artists and Ms. Di Biase Dooley explained that everyone, from local to regional, to national, to international would be invited to respond. Ms. Viscomi questioned the time frame of the project. Ms. Di Biase Dooley replied that the advertisement for participants would be released within a week, with one month to respond, then a juried committee will select the first round of installations in February, with the start of the festival to be Earth Day, April 22. Mr. Sun questioned additional funding for the project. Ms. Di Biase Dooley said the grant needed to be matched. Mr. Sun questioned the long term impact and Ms. Di Biase Dooley said the change in the perception of urban space would lead to long term economic impact. Mr. Sun asked why Easton's application had been chosen. Ms. Di Biase Dooley said she was informed the selection committee found the proposal unique, exciting and intriguing. Ms. Willford-Hunt added that the partnership of the College and City was also part of the selection decision.

Northampton County Historic Courthouse Renovation Presentation. Christine Ussler of Artefact, Inc was present. She explained the historic portion of the courthouse would be undergoing construction for energy upgrades and gutters and downspouts. The County received a grant for \$2,000,000 towards the renovations. She said the primary restoration would be of the existing windows in the main court rooms, which are 16-18' tall. She said the windows are in excellent condition, and interior storm systems would be installed for energy efficiency. Ms. Ussler said the remaining windows would be receiving new glass, and another would have the arched shape re-established and returned to the original configuration. She said the boxed gutters and downspouts would be refurbished as well and the sheet metal cornice and some stucco would be repaired and the whole building repainted in a historic scheme. Mr. Elliott asked if an energy analysis had been performed. Ms. Ussler said it was part of the work to be performed, only preliminary studies had been done. Mr. Stephen DeSalva, Director of Public Works for the County said calculations indicate a possible 20% savings from the window repairs.

Land Development Plan and Special Exception – Lafayette College parking lot at Clinton Terrace and Cattell Street. Mr. Manges said the applicant, Lafayette College, proposes to improve and expand an existing 26 space parking lot at 32-34 Cattell Street into a 36 space lot. Decorative lighting and landscaping is also proposed for the site. Mr. Jeff Martinson, engineer of the project, said the college had met with the Technical Review Committee several times, and the goal was to maximize the number of spaces on site by utilizing the existing alley system and minimizing the impervious surface. Mr. Martinson questioned requirements of the City Engineer requesting utility information, a soil and sediment control plan, along with a review from NCCD, given the minor area of disturbance and no additional utilities. Ms. Bradley said the small area of disturbance did not require a formal NCCD review, and the other matters would need to be resolved with the City Engineer. A motion to approve the revised resolution for land development

plan approval and recommending special exception approval to the Zoning Hearing Board was made by Mr. Lieb, seconded by Mr. Sun, approved by all.

EAC Update. Mr. Elliott said the EAC had a discussion on initial plans for a canoe marathon, sponsored by DCNR in 2013. He said the starting point would be in Easton, with the ending point in the vicinity of Lambertville or New Hope with festivities. He added the EAC had the opportunity to meet the new city forester and said the EAC will be sponsoring a tree planting in honor of the previous forester, the late Bob Nenow. He also reminded the Commission of the upcoming pot luck dinner on December 12 at the Eastonian. He added that as the City works on the Comprehensive Plan re-write, the EAC is working on drafts of LEED and solar ordinances.

Staff Update. Ms. Bradley said she made a presentation at the Lehigh Valley Trail summit, and that it went very well. She said there have been numerous complaints regarding the 600 block of Northampton Street and the problems need to be addressed. She added a revitalization plan for the block would be worked on.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.